



FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

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Welcome to Friday Night Facts ! Well, we are all finally rested from the Governor's Conference and have fully analyzed the evaluations. I must say that I am very pleased with the results of that evaluation, for they indicate that our volunteers did a great job in planning the conference. In coming weeks, we will share with you the plans for next year's conference. However, we welcome your comments and suggestions as we begin that planning process.

Have a great week. We'll talk with you next week.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following are the recipients of the 2006 Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism and were recognized at the Awards Dinner on April 10th. To find out more information about our award winners, please go to www.ofbci.in.gov It is located under the Governor's Awards link.



Community Volunteerism....PEER INFORMATION CENTER FOR TEENS, INC.

Faith-Based Volunteerism....VERNON REED

Lifetime Achievement....EVA SKIRVIN

National Service....KYAW SOE

Service Learning....LEAPS ACADEMY

Youth....JASMINE TAYLOR

The guest speaker at this dinner was Jim Towey who was appointed in 2002 by President Bush to lead the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. On April 18th, President Bush released the following statement reference Mr. Towey's resignation.

Jim Towey is a dedicated public servant who has served as a vital member of my Administration for more than four years. Under his leadership, the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives has applied the compassion of America to help solve some of our most challenging problems. His office has held 23 conferences around the country, assisting tens of thousands among America's "armies of compassion." Eleven Federal departments and agencies now have Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives that are building upon and expanding their good works in neighborhoods across the country.

Throughout his life, Jim has worked for Democrats and Republicans as an advocate for those in need. He served as Mother Teresa's legal counsel for many years. His work on behalf of the poor and the sick has improved lives. I admire Jim for his compassion, his faith, and his sense of humor. He is a man of great integrity, and I thank him for his service. Laura and I wish Jim, Mary, and the Towey family all the best.

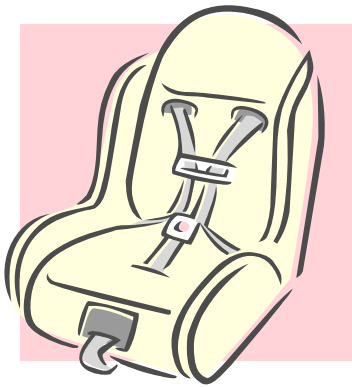
We are thankful to have had the opportunity to visit with him during our conference.



One-Stop Career Centers



The Department of Labor has launched **One-Stop Career Centers**, an integrated system of local centers where individuals can access high quality local information on available jobs, skill requirements, and training provider performance. Each **One-Stop Career Center** offers services ranging from self-service activities to more concentrated staff-assisted services. All the **One-Stop** services are free. To find a **One-Stop Career Center** near you, go to <http://www.servicelocator.org>



Child Seat Safety Check

Over 85% of car seats in Indiana are improperly installed in vehicles. Is yours one of them? Riley Hospital's Child Passenger Safety Program is hosting a Car Seat Safety Check on **Saturday, April 29th**. The check runs from 10 AM to 2 PM in the Union Parking lot. Child Passenger Safety Technicians will make sure your child seat meets safety standards. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, April 26th. Please call 317-274-1235 to reserve your spot. Let's make sure we protect the precious little ones riding with us!

REMINDER

April 29th and 30th Are....

Indiana Blue Saturday/Sunday Faith Initiative

In April 2006 **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana, Inc. encourages members of the faith community in Indiana to work "Hand-In-Hand" with prevention organizations to raise awareness of child abuse and the importance of preventing the pain of abuse before it occurs. For the first time **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana is including National **Blue** Sunday in its statewide efforts for Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Awareness Month in April. Places of worship throughout Indiana are invited to participate on Saturday or Sunday to join the millions already involved in the National **Blue** Sunday Initiative.

National **Blue** Sunday began 10 years ago when 20 places of worship took time during their worship services on the last Sunday of April (Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month) to pray for the victims of child abuse, and for those who serve and protect them. The international effort, founded and directed by the **Blue** Sunday Child Abuse Prevention Initiative, has grown to include more than 2 million participants.

Email **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana at generalinfo@pcain.org to let them know that you have been a part of Indiana **Blue** Saturday and Sunday.



April 5, 2006

BY THE NUMBERS

From the Office of Strategic Initiatives
202-456-2921

Prescription Drug Benefit Popular With Seniors

More Seniors Are Enrolling in the Drug Benefit Plan

- ⇒ **Enrollment so far has almost surpassed the entire year's goal.** 27.6 million of the 42.4 million eligible seniors are now covered by the prescription drug benefit. Of the 14.8 million who are not enrolled, 5.8 million are covered by alternative drug benefits like Veterans' Administration or their current employers. (CMS, 3/23/06)
- ⇒ **Enrollment is now well ahead of schedule.** The benefit has now almost met its goal of enrolling 28 million seniors by December 2006. (CMS, 3/23/06)
- ⇒ **More seniors are enrolling every week.** Since the start of March, seniors have been enrolling in the plan at an average rate of 416,000 per week, and enrollment has increased 29 percent since February. (CMS)
- ⇒ **The vast majority of seniors approve of the plan.** 79 percent of seniors approve of the drug benefit, and 50 percent approve "strongly." (Harris, 2/17-2/19/06)
- ⇒ **And seniors who haven't yet enrolled say they plan to.** 47 percent of seniors who aren't yet in the plan say they plan to enroll by May 15; an additional 16 percent said they would sign up soon when reminded that costs will be higher after then. (KRC Research, 3/15-3/20)

Seniors in The Plan Are Very Satisfied

- ⇒ **4 out of 5 seniors who signed up for the plan are satisfied.** 78 percent are now satisfied with their prescription drug coverage, while just 13 percent are not. Furthermore, 77 percent now say they have peace of mind about their coverage and 67 percent say they're better off than they were before. (KRC Research, 3/15-3/20)
- ⇒ **The longer they're in the plan, the more positive seniors feel about it.** 66 percent of seniors say the effort they put into evaluating different drug plans was worth it, while only 13 percent say it wasn't. The number who says it was worth it has increased by a net of 12 points since December 2005, when 57 percent thought it was worthwhile and 16 percent disagreed. (Ayres McHenry, 3/6-3/9/06)
- ⇒ **Seniors have been using the plan successfully.** 84 percent of seniors who enrolled themselves in the plan had no troubles signing up and 85 percent had no problems using it. (Ayres McHenry, 3/6-3/9/06)
- ⇒ **Seniors are able to choose the plan right for them.** Almost three-quarters of those in the plan, 72 percent, are confident they chose the drug plan that best fit their needs. (Pew Research, 3/8-3/12)
- ⇒ **Seniors in the plan are saving money on their drugs.** The average senior in the plan will save more than \$1,100 on their prescription drugs this year. Furthermore, the plan's premiums now average \$25 per month, down from a projected \$37 per month. (CMS Final Rule Regulatory Impact Analysis, 1/28/05)
- ⇒ **And they would recommend it to others.** 65 percent of those in the plan say they would recommend other seniors enroll; just 8 percent said they would not. (Ayres McHenry, 3/6-3/9/06)

Seniors Decidedly Negative on Critics of Benefit

- ⇒ **Seniors think the plan is a step in the right direction.** Two-thirds of seniors, 66 percent, believe the drug benefit was a step in the right direction, while just 20 percent think it was not. (KRC Research, 3/15-3/20)
- ⇒ **And they believe the benefit's critics are playing politics.** 46 percent of seniors in the plan believe that politicians criticizing the prescription drug benefit are just trying to score political points, while only 14 percent think they are sincerely trying to fix it. (Ayres McHenry, 3/6-3/9/06)

Sources include: Ayres McHenry Poll, Mar. 6-9, 2006, Medicare Plan D Enrollees; Center for Medicare Services Public Affairs Office; Dutko Worldwide, Mar. 14-17, 2006, RVs; Kaiser Family Foundation, Feb. 6-7, 2006, 65+; Harris Interactive Survey, February 7-9, 2006, 65+; KRC Research, March 15-20, 65+; Pew Research Center, March 8-12, Adults



Pandemic Flu Prep

This week's segment contains general questions and answers for children and pregnant women. If you would like further information, please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>



What special considerations should be given to pregnant women when preparing for a possible influenza pandemic? Pregnancy has been shown to increase the risk for serious medical complications of influenza, especially during the later stages of pregnancy, as documented in limited studies and case reports. Women in their third trimester of pregnancy were hospitalized at a rate comparable with that of non-pregnant women with high-risk medical conditions. During the influenza pandemic of 1918, people age 20 to 34 years experienced high fatalities, and pregnant women had the highest case fatality rates.

What special considerations should be given to young children when preparing for a possible influenza pandemic? Young children infected with the influenza virus can become ill enough to require hospitalization, just like the elderly, although death is rare. Infants less than 6 months of age are the pediatric group at greatest risk for serious complications from influenza. School-age children often serve as a reservoir for influenza, bringing the virus home to their younger siblings and other family members. Infants, toddlers, and school-age children and their caretakers are all at increased risk for spreading influenza, and infants may shed influenza virus for up to 14 days compared to the more typical 7 days for adults.

What steps can be taken to protect pregnant women and young children in the event of an influenza pandemic? The same common prevention measures that are recommended during seasonal influenza outbreaks should also be taken to reduce the risk of infection during a pandemic. They include: (1) frequent hand washing; (2) covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough, preferably using a tissue, and then disposing of the tissue appropriately; (3) staying home if experiencing symptoms of illness. Ill family members can wear masks if they must interact with the public.

How can vaccinations help protect pregnant women? If influenza vaccine is available, pregnant women are often considered as high-risk groups, thus being eligible for limited supplies of vaccine. Generally, live virus vaccines should not be administered to pregnant women, but inactivated viral vaccines pose no problem. Vaccination can take place in any trimester. It is estimated that an average of 1-2 hospitalizations can be prevented for every 1,000 pregnant women vaccinated. One study of influenza vaccination of about 2,000 pregnant women demonstrated no adverse fetal effects associated with influenza vaccine.
